**Why Are Finland’s Schools Succesfull?**

**15 Reasons Reformers Are Looking to Finland**

1. **Pre-reading 1**

**Look at the headline of the article: Finland’s schools are so successful that reformers are looking to Finland’s educational system. What do you think can be a measure of a school’s success? Give some examples and discuss the given:**

1. The number of graduates per year
2. The quality of graduates’s education
3. The students’s opinion of the schools
4. **Pre-reading 2**

**Which of the countries do you think has the most effective educational system: Russia, Finland, Great Britain or USA? Justify your opinion.**

1. **Key Words**

**Fill in the gaps to associate words and expressions with their definitions.**

learning-related issues to assign homework an equal collocation of resourses

tuition fees national curriculum knowledge-based economy an academic prowess

a controversial issue educational potential

1. A concept of a state’s economy, dwelling not on the amount of natural resourses and human labour involved, but on usage of progressive production techniques and high-qualified specialists. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. A remarkable student’s capability and educational achievments. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. A complex of topics and skills that should be taught within the educational process, approved by the government. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Handicaps, diseases, personal views, sensibilities etc., rendering a person requiring specific conditions for education. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. A concept of distributing money, industry-specific materials etc. among all involved sides in such a way that no one gets less or more than another. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. To give a student special task to be worked through and prepared at home in order to support the educational process, conducted in class. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. An ability of a country to provide citizens with a specified level of education. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. A problem, subject etc., absorbing a variety of different opinions around it and causing a lot of disagreement and debate. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. The money charged by educational institutions to assist with funding of staff and faculty, course offerings, lab equipment, computer systems, libraries, facility upkeep and to provide a comfortable student learning experience. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. **Scanning for information**

**Which of the following can be referred to the US or Finland’s school system?**

1. managed to get to the top of international rankings
2. uses a strictly outlined curriculum
3. shows mediocre performance
4. encourages creative thinking
5. uses a set of broad guidelines
6. is obsessed with standardized tests
7. **General understanding**

**Match the beginnings and endings of these sentences.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | There is no doubt that American educational system | a. | to learn simply for learning’s sake. |
| 2. | Many see Finland’s educational system | b. | teach how to live, learn and find your passion. |
| 3. | Finnish students are encouraged | c. | provide on-site counselling and guidance. |
| 4. | The first years of education should | d. | is in need of reform. |
| 5. | As requiried by law, every school must | e. | as a promising model. |

1. **Vocabulary development. Synonyms**

**Match the words and expressions with the same meanings in the tables.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | to motivate | a. | a serious, obvious difference |
| 2. | to capitalize on sth | b. | second rate, less than average |
| 3. | a stark contrast | c. | showing a great deal of variety, very different |
| 4. | at the heart of | d. | to gain advantage from |
| 5. | an aversion | e. | a marked effect or influence |
| 6. | a woe | f. | a strong dislike, a hatred |
| 7. | diverse | g. | a problem, a trouble |
| 8. | mediocre | h. | In the center of attention, at the core of |
| 9. | to emulate | i. | to encourage |
| 10. | lasting impact on | j. | to reproduce, to copy |

1. **Discussion**
2. What does the educational model in your country more look like?
3. Is teaching a respected and prestigious profession in your country?
4. Do students in your country have much free time?
5. Does everyone have similar educational opportunities in your country?
6. What reforms do you think should be applied to the educational system of your country and how can they be perpetrated?